

**Forest Service**

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# News Release

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## State and Federal Agencies Work to Prevent Spread of Gypsy Moth in Southwest Virginia

**(June 5, 2015) Roanoke, Va** - The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the USDA Forest Service are spraying 37,500 acres of private and national forest lands to control gypsy moth infestations in Bland, Grayson, Smyth, and Wythe counties, Virginia. Low flying aircraft will spray the area in mid-June and will take about 3-4 days to complete.

Spraying only affects the gypsy moth by emitting a “scent” that confuses the moths during mating. The pheromone poses a very low risk to other insects, as well as people, birds, fish, and other animals. “This project is part of the National Slow the Spread program which prevents current low level gypsy moth infestations from growing,” states Forest Service Entomologist Donna Leonard.

Four miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail will be sprayed in Bland County, north of US 42 near Knot Maul Shelter. Signs will alert hikers as they enter the area.

For more information about spraying on the national forest, please contact the Eastern Divide Ranger District (540) 552-4641 or the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area (276) 783-5196. For information about spraying on private lands, please contact Virginia Department of Consumer Services (540) 394-2507.

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